

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Costigan on 07 December 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 1 Line 4 please delete - - each - -

Claim 1 Line 17 please delete - - clockwise - -

Claim 1 Line 20 please delete - - cylindric longitudinal - - and in its place insert - - vertical - -

Claim 1 Line 26 please delete - - by substantially 25% - -

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art made of record discloses the claimed invention including a washing brush element comprising a cylindric ring body having a vertical axis and a side cylindric outer surface, on said cylindric outer surface being defined a plurality of seats each for fixedly receiving a cleaning closed cell or felt material band element, each band element comprising an elongated substantially rectangular flat cleaning body having an end portion thereof fixedly restrained in a respective said seat of the cylindric ring body,

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each band element being so longitudinally cut as to define a plurality of adjoining substantially flat and parallel different length cleaning bristles, wherein the seats are diagonally separated by diagonal slanted U-shaped seats having a length smaller than a diameter of the cylindric ring body and such an inclination with respect to the vertical axis of the cylindric ring body that , with the cylindric ring body in a vertical non driven condition thereof, each band element will fall so as to overlap on and partially contact an adjoining like band element, the inclination being such that each band element has a length larger than a length that a vertical like band element would have if it would be arranged in a vertical direction parallel to the vertical axis of the cylindric ring body.

The changes made by Examiner's Amendment were made to overcome what may have been potential rejections under 35 USC 112.

JP 2002-316622 teaches a car wash brush element comprising a brush element having a cylindric ring body with a vertical axis, a cylindric outer surface having a plurality of diagonally slanted seats with a length smaller than a diameter of the ring body, and closed cell cleaning band elements. JP 2002-316622 does not disclose that the seats are diagonally separated or are U-shaped.

US 6,564,418 to Favagrossa (the same inventor of the present application) teaches a cylindric brush element having mounted thereon cleaning closed cell or felt band element with flat and different length cleaning bristles. This patent does not disclose a plurality of diagonally separated diagonal slanted U-shaped seats.

US 6,795,996 to Ennis et al. is conceptually similar to the Applicant's invention in that the band elements are mounted to a cylindric outer surface of a ring body so that

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the band elements will diagonally overlap adjoining band elements. Ennis et al. does not disclose a plurality of diagonally separated diagonal slanted U-shaped seats

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura C. Guidotti whose telephone number is (571) 272-1272. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday, 6am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica Carter can be reached on (571) 272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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